

laid the groundwork that transformed many of the world's central banks, helping deliver economic stability and improved living standards in countries around the world.

Milton Friedman, a recipient of the Nobel Prize, will be remembered as one of the most influential economists in history. The Nation is grateful for his profound contributions.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Friedman family.

Remarks at a State Banquet Hosted by President Nguyen Minh Triet of Vietnam in Hanoi

November 17, 2006

Mr. President and Madam Chi, the reason I'm smiling is because I'm really happy to be here, and so is Laura. And we thank you for your warm hospitality. First, I want to congratulate you for your success on hosting APEC. I'm confident our fellow leaders will have the same sense of gratitude and respect that we feel from the Vietnamese people.

Vietnam is a remarkable country. For decades you had been torn apart by war. Today, the Vietnamese people are at peace and seeing the benefits of reform. The Vietnamese own their own businesses, and today, the Vietnamese economy is the fastest growing in Southeast Asia. Vietnamese students have great opportunities here at home and abroad. The Vietnamese people are traveling around the world and sharing this ancient culture with peoples of the world. And the United States, as well as other APEC partners, look forward to strengthening our ties.

The American people welcome the progress of Vietnam. And we want to continue to work together to better our relations. We will work with you to help combat avian flu and HIV/AIDS. We have signed agreements to protect religious freedom. We strongly support Vietnam in the World Trade Organization.

Vietnam is a country that's taking its rightful place as a strong and vibrant nation. Mr. President, your leadership is helping your country succeed. I can see it as I drive on the streets; the people of your country have hope. And I hope they know, as a result of

my visit, they have the friendship of the American people.

And so, Mr. President, I would like to propose a toast to you and Madam Chi and to the fine people of Vietnam.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 7:15 p.m. at the International Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Tran Thi Kim Chi, wife of President Triet. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 10

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Alvaro Uribe Velez of Colombia. He then had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Quantico, VA. Later, he met with Dan and Deb Dunham, whose son, Corp. Jason Dunham, USMC, was killed in Iraq and posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. He then returned to Washington, DC.

November 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Arlington, VA, where they participated in a Veterans Day wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

During the day, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a reception for members of the 555th Anti-aircraft Artillery Battalion who served during World War II.

November 13

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Pervez